

**INTERNET USAGE DATA RECORDING SYSTEM AND METHOD
EMPLOYING A CONFIGURABLE RULE ENGINE FOR THE
PROCESSING AND CORRELATION OF NETWORK DATA**

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10 A network usage data recording system and method employing an
aggregation rule scheme for processing and correlation of network data is
described. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method for
recording network usage. The method includes the step of defining a network
data collector including an encapsulator, an aggregator and a data storage
system. A set of network accounting data is received via the encapsulator. The
network accounting data set is converted to a standard data format. The network
accounting data set is processed via the aggregator, including the steps of
defining a rule chain and applying the rule chain to the network accounting data
15 set to construct an aggregation tree including creating an aggregated network
accounting data set. The aggregated network accounting data set is stored in the
data storage system.

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